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GOVERNOR NICHOLSON TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Board of Trade
Virginia
Vol. 6.
(B. 37.)

Virginia James City
Feb. 4. 9$^{8}/_{9}$.

May it please yor Lord^{ps}

Thanks for their Lordps late favours; & hopes of discharging my duty, &c., to their Lordps.

I humbly beg y^{t} yor Lord^{ps}. would be pleased to accept of my humblest and most dutifull thanks for your Lord^{ps}. unmerited favours to me, concerning his Majestys having been most graciously pleased to commissionate me to be his Lieftenant & Govern^{r}. general of this his Majestys province. And I hope y^{t}. God allmighty will be pleased to enable me to discharge my duty to Him, his Majesty, and yor. Lord^{ps}. and y^{n}. I shall have ye greatest satisfaction and content imaginable.

Letters, &c., sent the 20th of August, and 12th 7ber 98, &c,

The 20th of August, and ye 12th. of 7ber last, I did endeavour to give yor. Lord^{ps}. (as in duty bound) an Account by Letters, journals, papers &c. (especially by ye first) of his Majestys province of Maryland: all which, I hope in God, yor. Lord^{ps}. have received long before this: and y^{t}. they were to yor. Lord^{ps}. satisfaction; or at least, y^{t}. yor. Lord^{ps}. did not disapprove of y^{m}.

Account of ye rcpt of their Lordps Lre of ye 23d of Augst 98, left with Governor Blakiston, as allso all other publick letters, papers, &c.

I had y^{e}. honour to receive yor. Lord^{ps} letter of August y^{e}. 23^{d}. 98. which, with your Lord^{ps}. papers therewith sent, I left with my successor his excy Col. Nathaniel Blakiston; as I did allso your Lord^{ps}. former letters &c. to me; as allso all other publick letters, papers &c. as will appear by y^{e}. Journal of y^{e}. Council there; which was not fairly transcribed, when I came from thence. But I shall send it to yor. Lord^{ps}. by ye first opportunity after I have received it.

Col. Blakiston, his arrival at Annapolis 26th 10ber 98. Ye Governmente delivered up to him ye 2nd of Janry. A full accte given to him of ye Governmente. Good cor-

Govern^{r}. Blakiston came to Annapolis y^{e}. 26th day of December last, but by reason of y^{e}. frost &c. then, the Council did not meet before y^{e}. 2nd. of Jan^{ry}. (and y^{n} there were but just enough of y^{m}) at which time I delivered up to him, y^{t}. his Maj-

respondence settled with him and the Earl of Bellomt, and copys of their letters concerning it, &c.

esty's Government. And according to my duty for his Majestys service, I gave him ye. best and fullest Account I could, of yt Government in all respects. And I hope we have, for his Majestys service, settled a very good Correspondence; as I have had ye. good fortune to doe with his Excellency ye. Earl of Bellomont. And I hope yt. yor. Lordps. will give me your pardon for sending you Copys of his Lordps. and Col. Blakistons Letters to me, on yt subject &c. both which, are in No. 1. And as it is not in ye. least to be doubted of his Lordps. and Col. Blakistons great zele and abilitys for his Majestys service: so I shall endeavour (God willing) to follow such examples.

Sent to their Lordps Journals of Councils as allso of ye Assemblys and Laws made in October 98. Strange proceedings of some of ye house of Delegates, their reasons for ym, and my conjectures concerning ym. But thank God, they were defeated, & ye Government kept in peace, &c.

I herewith humbly transmit to yor. Lordps. in No. 2. ye. Council proceedings in Maryland, from ye. 27th. day of August, to ye. 14th day of 7ber 1698. No. 3. ye. Journal of ye. Council in Assembly, October 1698. No. 4 the journal of the House of Delegates October 20th. 1698. No. 5. Laws made in October 1698. In ye. journals of Assembly You may please to see the strange and unusual proceedings (to give ym no worse an Epithet) of some of ye. House of Delegates: And whatever grievances they pretended, were only to amuze ye. loyal people (and yf possible) to have made ym disaffected to his Majestys Government. and no doubt would have been glad to have caused some Risings or commotions. But their Actions are not much to be wondered at, considering there be so many papists, Quakers, Jacks, and necessitous people in yt. Government. ffor of ye. two last kinds are several of ye. Delegates. But I thank God, yt. by ye. Assistance of his Majestys honble Council there, and some of ye. Delegates, I defeated all their designs. And I think I may without vanity say, yt. if it had been his Majestys Royal pleasure, yt. I had stayed there, I could have kept yt. his Majestys Government in profound peace & quietness.

Copys of peticons &c, concerning

In ye. latter end of ye. Journals are Copys of

my Administracon of ye Governmt, which, hope are a full answer to Slyes Articles, &c.

peticons to me concerning my Administration in yt. Government, as allso about Clark &c. with my Answer to ym. &c. which, I hope, will be to yor. Lordps. satisfaction, & a full Answer to all Coods and Slyes Articles &c. against me.

Journal of ye Comittee of Accts, All debts pd. both of Tobacco & mony. Some given to pious uses. Above £800 in Bank, and hopes of as much more shortly.

No. 6. the Copy of ye. Journal of ye. Committee especially appointed to inspect ye. publick Accounts of his Matys province of Maryld &c. by which I thank God, it will appear yt all ye debts of ye. Country (which were many when I came into it) both of Tobaccos and money, are discharged, as allso ye. publick buildings, and several other contingent charges are pd for; one hundred pounds given towards buying publick librarys for ye. parishes: and an other hundered pounds towards building an Hospital at a cool spring: which (thank God) last summer, did a great deal of good to people yt. were troubled with several deseases and distempers: and yet there is in bank above 800lb. and several Acts in force for raising money, yt. in all probability, before they expire, will raise about ye. sd. summe. And if any Number of Negros go thither, half as much more.

Journal of ye Commee of accts for laying ye publick levie, &c.

No. 7. ye. Journal of ye. Committee of Accounts begun and held at the port of Annapolis &c. By which Journal yor. Lordps. may be pleased to see yt. all ye. Tobacco Accounts are pd. and No. 8 is ye. money. account taken out of ye sd. Tobacco Journal, which is tacked to it.

Condemnacion of ye Briganteen Shusanna in ye Court of Admiralty, &c. About illegal Traders being tryed in ye Courts of Admiralty in ye proprietors and elective Governments, &c.

No. 9. ye. tryal and Condemnacon of ye. Briganteen Shusannah &c. in his Majestys Court of Admiralty, for breach of ye. Acts of Trade &c. I had her tryed in yr. Court pursuant to ye honble his Majestys Atturney and Sollicetor general's Report to yor. Lordps. about yt. part of my letter to yor. Lordps. concerning illegal Traders being tryed in his Mayestys Court of Admiralty. And with submission, I think, yt. unless all illegal Traders be tryed in his Majestys Courts of Admiralty in these parts, they will hardly be condemned; especially in ye proprietors, and elective Governments.

Copy of an humble address to his most Sacred Majesty, &c.

N°. 10. Copy of an humble Address to his most sacred Majesty. The Original is sent to S^r^. Thomas Laurence Baronet: and if yor. Lordship pleaseth, he is to present it to his Majesty.

The reason why several things were not sent to their Lord^ps^ my Intentions (God willing of going to Maryland), &c.

It being y^e^. depth of Winter when I left Maryland, I was not able to have from y^e^. Collectors, y^e^. Naval Officers, his Majestys two Receivers, & the Clark of y^e^. Council, their several lists, Accompts, and other papers, in order to transmit them to yor. Lord^ps^. But I hope in God, to have them some time the beginning of y^e^. next moneth (so y^t^ I may be enabled to doe my duty to your Lord^ps^. therein) for I design (God willing) to visit our Frontiers: and from y^e^. uppermost settlements on potomack, it is not above a days journey to Annapolis: whither I purpose to go, in order to discourse Govern^r^. Blakiston about y^e^. Indians and securing the Frontiers, and settling of a post &c. as allso to get y^e^. lists, Accompts &c.

Fortune to find Governm^ts^ under unhappy circumstances; but yet hope in God, to doe well, &c.

It hath been my Fortune, when I came into his Majestys Governments, to find y^m^ under some unhappy circumstances: and when his Majesty shall be graciously pleased either to remove or order me from this; I must esteem it as a very great happiness and satisfaction, if, please God, I can but deliver it up, as I did before, or as I did his Majestys Government of Maryland.

Dutifull thanks to their Lord^ps^ for dispatching my Commission and Instructions, and hopes to have their Lord^ps^ commands. My predecessor not leaving their Lord^ps^ letters, &c., what was done upon that affair. His endeavoring to leave things in ye dark; yet hope shall be able to discharge my duty, &c.

I find by yor. Lord^ps^. last letter of y^e^. 23rd. of August to me, more Instances of your Lord^ps^. undeserved Favours, by readily dispatching my Commission and Instructions for this his Majestys Government: which I shall most readily and cordially endeavour (God willing) to obey and follow, as I am in all duty and highest gratitude obliged to doe. In y^t^. letter your Lord^ps^. are pleased to mention y^t^. you shall have many things to write to me, relating to this his Majestys Government: which I doe with great earnestness but patience, wait for: (*sic?*) seeing my predecessour was pleased not to leave me any of your Lord^ps^. letters to him,

only that concerning an Act agst pyrats &c. which was y^e. reason of y^e. order of myself and Council, y^t. Edmund Jennings Esqr. deputy Secretary should wait upon S^r. Edmund Andross, to desire and receive of him all letters, and other publick papers &c. and letter A. is an account of what was done therein; which, with humble submission, I thought was for his Majestys Service, and so I obliged in duty to doe it. And tho he would not be present at y^e. publication of my Commission, nor deliver anything to me (so in y^t respect I was left as much as possible, in y^e. dark concerning this his Majestys Government) yet (I thank God) I am not in y^e. least discouraged thereby: and I hope I shall not be y^e. less able to discharge my duty in all respects; in order for y^e. well governing of this his Majestys Colony & Dominion. Being S^r. Edm^d. would give me no Account of y^e. Revenue, Fortifications, &c I have gotten them from y^e. Auditor, and ye Gunners. Letter B. is Edward Ross Gunner of this place, his Account. Letter C. is y^e. Account of Richard Dunbarr Gunner of Tyndals point, over against which place (on this side of York River) there are allso eight field-Carriages, on which never any Guns were yet mounted. And I think it will be now too late; by reason y^t. they are in very little better condicon than y^e. others. I would allso have gon and seen the Fortification, as tis called, in Nantzimum: but I find y^t. it is not now esteemed one: by reason y^t. ye Gunner is discharged. What publick Arms and Ammunicon there are in y^e. several Countys, I hope to have an account there of, at y^e. meeting of y^e. Council.

Sr Edmonds giving no acc^t of ye Revenue or fortifications, got y^m since. The Gunner of this place & of Tyndals point their acc^ts no Gunner at Nantzimum, &c.

Letter D. is the Copy of M^r. Auditor Bird's Acc^t. of ye 2^s ℔ Hdd &c. Letter E. is a further Acc^t. of Warrants passed, but not pd. And letter F. is a Copy of Salarys to my coming hither: So his Majestys Revenue of 2^s ℔ Hdd is in debt about 4600^lb. Letter G. is a Copy of his Majestys Quit-

Mr Auditor Bird's acc^ts. The Revenue of ye 2^s in debt about 4600^ll. Extract of former acc^ts. The country supposed to be in debt for both tobaccos and money. The unlucky Accid^nt of

ye general Court-house being burnt, &c., great charge to build another, &c.

rent. Account. Letter H. is an Extract taken out of ye. former Accts. &c. I suppose yt. ye. Country is in debt too upon several Accts. and I find there is neither money, nor Tobacco in Bank, to pay their Debts: nor any act in force, by which either of ym. may be raised. And by reason of ye. unlucky Accident of ye. general Court House being burnt last October Court (in which Building were several Offices: and the House of Burgesses allso sat there) I will require about 2000ll. to make an other suitable and convenient.

The bad circumstances of ye Government; other ways when I delivered it to Sr Edmund. If he should prtend this years 2s and quit-rents to balance it; submissive reasons for their not being allowed, &c.

By all these accts. you may please to see under what bad Circumstances I enter upon this his Majestys Government. And in point of ye. Revenue, when I delivered it up to Sr. Edmund, twas much otherways. But if He should pretend that there is this Years 2s. ℔ Hdd. and Quit-rents towards ballancing of ye. Accompts: with submission, I think it cannot justly be allowed of. For there is but one Crop a year, to pay ye. 2s. and all ye. Salarys: and contingent Charges are annual. And when he enterd upon ye. Government, it was but 3 moneths. sooner in ye. Year.

About calling an Assembly in April. In ye interim hope in God, to be in peace & quietness, &c.

I find it will be absolutely necessary for his Majestys service to have an Assembly so soon as possible: but circumstances considered, I fear it will not be till ye. latter end of April. In ye. Interim, & then, I shall endeavour to keep this his Majestys Government in peace & quietness.

About Mr Dudley Diggs being of ye Council. Humble reasons why I could not admit of him, &c.

Sr. Edmund spoke to me about one Mr. Dudley Diggs, whome he had made of his Majestys Council, last October Court. But with humble submission, I think there was no absolute necessity for it then. For an Assembly and a Council had been held before yt. time, & after ye death of Col. Christopher Wormley, in whose place he was put. And yor. Lordps. in his Majestys Royal Instructions to me, having left out ye. sd. Wormley (which no doubt was because Your Lordps. had an account of his death, either from Sr. Edmund, or other ways)

and appointed 12 gentlemen besides, and Mr. Diggs none of ym. I have found yt. by his Majestys Royal Commission to me, I could not admit of him; because there is above ye. Number Nine.

Hopes yt a great many Gentlemen are as zelous for his Majesty's service as Mr Diggs. Hopes of pardon for not sending ye names of 12 Gentlemen fit to be of his Majys Council; humble reasons for not sending a list of ym, &c.

And I hope there are a great many Gentlemen in this province, who have been, and are very zelous for his Majestys Service in general; yt. are in all respects equally, if not better qualified than he, I hope yt. you (*sic?*) Lordps. will be pleased to give me yor. pardon for not herewith transmitting to yor. Lordps. ye names of ye. 12 persons qualifyed to be of his Majestys Honble Council. For, with humble submission, I think it is for his Majestys Service, to defer it, till it please God, yt. ye. Assembly is over: which I think is a proper time to try men in: especially considering how many of his Majestys Affairs are to be transacted there.

The proceedings of ye Council here ye 9th, 10th & 12th of 10ber last; humble reasons and hopes of excuse for not sending any further acct to their Lordps, &c.

Letter I. are proceedings of ye. Council on ye. 9th. 10th. & 12th. days of 10ber. 1698. And I am in hopes yt. yor. Lordps will be pleased to excuse me, for not now sending to yor. Lordps. any further account of this his Majestys Government, pursuant to his Royal Instructions; by reason yt. it is winter: So yt. I have not been able as yet to go much abroad; nor had but one Council, & yt. short, by reason of ye. fewness of ye. Counsellours.

The extraordinary weather these last 3 Winters in these pts. Thank God, all very healthful, and hope yt ye tobacco-Trade will flourish; So yt nothing be done by ye planters, which may be prejudicial to his Majestys Revenue or ye Interest of old England, &c.

In these parts of ye. World, these 3 last Winters have been very extraordinary: ye. first for ye. greatness of ye. Snow, ye. other for ye. oftenness thereof, and great Frosts, and lengths thereof: And this for ye. mildness and fineness thereof: there having been little or no snow, only some smart Frosts at ye. beginning; but only enough to correct ye grossness of ye. Air in point of ye. Summer and Fall Heats: So yt. I thank God, we are very healthfull. This Weather and effects hath been universal in his Majestys Dominions here on ye. Continent: all which pray God continue. I am now in hopes yt. it will please God the Winters, and seasons will be as when these parts were first seated; So that

the Tobacco-planters both here, & in Maryland, may be incouraged to follow it; and not go upon any other projects, which may be prejudicial to his Majestys Revenue, or y^e^. Interest of his Majestys Kingdom of England; of wch. I have y^e^. very great honour and happiness to be a Native.

Suppose to carry all ye tobacco near ships enough & more expected. Small crops in Maryl^d^, but a great many ships, for some must stay, or go dead fraighted. Great prices for tobacco; low fraight ye reason why. Heartily wished y^t^ ye buyers of Tobacco and ye owners of ships may meet wth ye same fortune as ye sellers and fraighters.

I suppose that there are here very near Ships enough (but more are daly expected from England) to transport all ye Tobaccos; of which there are pretty good Crops: in Maryland very small ones; but more ships than can be loaded with this Crop. So that they must either go from thence dead fraighted, or stay all y^e^. Summer for y^e^. next Crop. But it makes well for y^e^. planter: ffor they have very great prices for their Tobaccos: which no doubt is caused by y^e^. quantity of Ships, Goods, and purchasers, as it is here allso: for some give about 20^s^. ℔ cent. for Arronoes Tobacco; and 25^s^. and upw^ds^. per cent. for sweet-sented. Fraight is low here, but particularly in Maryland. I heartily wish y^t^. y^e^. Buyers of Tobaccos, and y^e^. owners of ships, may have so good Fortune, as y^e^. Sello^rs^. and Fraight^rs^. I am now humbly to beg yor. Lord^ps^. pardon for y^e^. prolixity of this Letter: but withall, to give me leave of assuring yor. Lord^ps^. that I think myself bound in duty to subscribe myself.

Their Lord^ps^ pardon humbly begged for ye prolixity of this letter, &c., by ff^r^ Nicholson.

Yo^r^. Lord^ps^. most obliged
obedient and faithful
humble Servant
ffr: Nicholson

The receipt of a letter by their late Excellcy^s^ ye Lords Justices order about French soldiers, &c., what I did there upon, &c.

A little before I gave up his Majestys Government of Maryland, I received a Letter from y^e^. hon^ble^. M^r^. R. Yard; which He writ, was by order of their late Excellencys y^e^. Lords Justices &c. It bore date y^e^. 20th. of 7ber last; and was concerning some French Soldiers of y^e^. Garison of y^e^. Fort du Noxoata en Accadie, which were taken by y^e^. English. According to their Excellencys Directions, I

ordered proclamations into y^e^. several Countys; but I believe that none of those French Soldiers are in y^t^. province, or in this. The original Letter, and Names of y^e^. Soldiers, I left with Govern^r^. Blakiston. Since y^e^. meeting of y^e^. Council here, Edmund Jennings Esqr. deputy Secretary hath brought me such another Letter directed to S^r^. Edmund Andross his Majestys late Lieften^t^. and Governour general of Virginia. So when please God y^e^. Council meets, proclamations shall be sent into y^e^. several Countys by me.

ff: N:

The receipt of their late Excellenceys ye Lords Justices Orders and Instructions about trade, &c., which shall (God willing) be obeyed by ff^r^ Nicholson.

I have received their late Excell^cys^. y^e^. Lords Justices Orders and Instructions to me, in pursuance to several Laws relating to y^e^. Trade and Navigacon of his Majestys Kingdom of Engld. and his Majestys Colonies and plantacons in America. They bear date y^e^. 30th. of 7ber last, and were sent to me by y^e^. Right Honble M^r^. Secretary Vernon. And as in Duty bound (God willing) they shall be obeyd by

ffr. Nicholson

endorsed: *Virginia*

Lre from Coll Nicholson to y^e^. Board, dated y^e^. 4th. of Feb^ry^. 169$^{8}/_{9}$

Rec^d^. April y^e^. 3^d^. } 1699
Read the 19th. May }

OLD LETTERS FROM VIRGINIA COUNTY RECORDS.

NICHOLAS HAYWARD TO NATHANIEL POPE.*

To his approved loving friend Mr Nathaniel Pope at Appomattocks in Virginia

Loving friend Mr Pope I kindly salute you with hopes of your health as I bless God I am at this present. Sr I writt you severall times that I had sent you some goods in Mr Webber by the

* This letter is found recorded in Northumberland County Clerk's Office (Virginia). Nathaniel Pope resided at Appomattox in Westmoreland county. His daughter Ann married Col. John Washington,